

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 049291 TOSEC 060013

NODIS

CHEROKEE FOR SECRETARY FROM SONNENFELDT

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PARM, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: IKLE'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON CRUISE MISSILE

- - - VERIFICATION

1. NO MATTER HOW IKLE PORTRAYED HIS PRESS CONFERENCE TO YOU, YOU WILL SEE WHEN YOU READ THE TEXT (TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY) THAT HE HAS SYSTEMATICALLY UNDERCUT THE THRUST OF OUR PRIOR AND CURRENT PROPOSALS ON CRUISE MISSILE LIMITS TO THE SOVIETS. ALTHOUGH IKLE ADOPTED THE GUISE OF ATTACKING THE KENNEDY-HUMPHREY-JAVITS RESOLUTION, KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT WILL PERCEIVE THIS AS CASTING GRAVE DOUBT ON OUR ABILITY TO VERIFY ANY OF THE VARIOUS CRUISE MISSILE FORMULAE WHICH HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED TO DATE.

2. IKLE'S CRITICISM OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION DOES NOT JUST FAULT THE IMMEDIATE TESTING MORATORIUM BUT ALSO

- - - THE VERIFIABILITY OF LIMITING SLCMS TO

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600 KM OR ALCMS TO 2500 KM. THIS WAS PICKED UP BY A

QUESTION IN THE LATER PART OF THE CONFERENCE WHEN A REPORTER CITED YOUR STATEMENT OPPOSING THE MORATORIUM ASPECT AND POINTED OUT THIS IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE OBJECTION IKLE MADE "WHICH IS THAT THE TESTING LIMITATION IS INHERENTLY UNVERIFIABLE."

3. THE MOST DAMAGING ASPECT OF ALL IS THAT SHOULD WE REACH A NEW SALT AGREEMENT WHICH INCLUDES CRUISE MISSILE LIMITATIONS OF THE TYPE WE HAVE PROPOSED, DURING THE RATIFICATION PROCESS IKLE'S COMMENTS IN THIS PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE EXPLOITED AGAINST US.

4. IKLE HAS ALSO GIVEN A BOOST TO THE CRUISE MISSILE LOBBY BY HIS CONSTANT RAISING DOUBTS ABOUT ANY CONCEIVABLE LIMITATION ON CRUISE MISSILES. HE HAS FURTHER POLITICIZED THE DEBATE IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT BY EQUATING THE KENNEDY-HUMPHREY-JAVITS RESOLUTION WITH THE SOVIET APPROACH TO THE LIMITATION OF CRUISE MISSILES. SINCE THE RESOLUTION IS QUITE CLOSE TO ELEMENTS OF OUR LATEST PROPOSAL EXCEPT FOR THE MORATORIUM, IN EFFECT HE HAS SAID THAT NOT ONLY ARE WE ACCEPTING THE SOVIET APPROACH, BUT THAT IT IS UNVERIFIABLE.

5. IN THE LATER PART OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE HE ALSO MAKES ENOUGH UNPLEASANT INNUENDOS ABOUT KENNEDY, HUMPHREY AND JAVITS TO FURTHER COMPLICATE OUR RELATIONS WITH THEM. INDEED, HIS FINAL ANSWER IS THAT THE SENATORS HAVE MADE A MISTAKE.

6. ON THE SPECIFIC RANGES, IKLE WAS ASKED WHETHER THE LIMIT OF 2500 KM ON ALCMS SUGGESTED IN THE RESOLUTION "WOULDN'T BE A LIMIT, WOULDN'T BE A CONSTRAINT." IKLE'S ANSWER: "THAT IS RIGHT." IN THIS INSTANCE HE HAS SPECIFICALLY REJECTED AN EXPLICIT PART OF OUR LAST PROPOSAL TO THE SOVIETS. ELSEWHERE, IKLE STATES THAT A 600 KM LIMIT ON SLCMS IS "A TRAP." ONE REPORTER LATER TELLS IKLE THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT ONE OF THE OPTIONS THAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH THE RUSSIANS IS A 600 KM LIMIT ON SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES. IKLE DUCKED IN HIS ANSWER TO THAT SPECIFIC QUESTION BUT A FEW LINES LATER SAYS THAT IF YOU DO THE SAME AS IN THE SENATE

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RESOLUTION THE SAME PROBLEMS FOLLOW TAUTOLOGICALLY.

7. IN SUMMARY, IKLE HAS DONE SEVERE DAMAGE TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION AND HAS SOWN THE SEEDS FOR AN EVEN MORE DIFFICULT RATIFICATION DEBATE ON VERIFICATION. WHATEVER HIS MOTIVATION, HE HAS TAKEN A POSITION DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO THAT WHICH THE PRESIDENT APPROVED AND THIS WILL INEVITABLY BECOME PUBLIC.

8. THE ABOVE WAS WRITTEN PRIOR TO OUR TELEPHONE CON-
VERSATION. INGERSOLL

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